

General Information

Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education
Division of Special Education
Phone: 573-751-0187

Web site:
<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps>

Training Information

Web site:
<http://mu-cise-web1.coe.missouri.edu/web-cal/>

Provider Enrollment Information

Phone: 1-866-711-2573, Ext. 2

CFO Provider Enrollment
c/o Covansys Software Services
P.O. Box 29134
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-9134

Web site:
<http://missouri.eikids.com>



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Join the First Steps Team!



Service Coordination Recruitment

First Steps

Missouri's Early Intervention Program

First Steps is a collaborative effort of the Missouri Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services and is supported by federal, state, local, and private funds. First Steps offers early intervention services and assistance to families with young children, birth to age three, who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental disabilities. The goal of First Steps is to provide coordinated services for Missouri families as conveniently as possible. Participation in First Steps is voluntary and is intended to help families:

- understand their child's special needs;
- obtain the help they desire to deal with situations that could interfere with their child's growth and development; and
- provide the best conditions for their child's growth and development.



First Steps is implementing a major redesign of the statewide system, which makes available a number of new opportunities for

participation by families, providers, and community partners. A critical service

provided through First Steps is service coordination, which must be provided to each family of an eligible child. First Steps is actively recruiting service coordinators throughout Missouri.

Service Coordination

Service coordination is an active, ongoing process that involves assisting parents of eligible children in gaining access to the early intervention services identified in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Service coordinators work with families to coordinate these and other services that the child needs or is being provided. Service coordinators ensure that services are delivered in accordance with the IFSP and work continuously with families to seek the additional services and supports necessary to benefit the development of each child and family being served for the duration of the child's eligibility.



Who Can Be a Service Coordinator?

There are two levels of service coordination in Missouri. The specialist level includes individuals with a bachelor's degree in early childhood special education, early childhood education, or a related human service

field (e.g. psychology, sociology, social work, child development and family studies, human development). The associate level requires a high school diploma or GED and supervision from a fully-credentialed specialist-level service coordinator. Service coordinators may enroll as individual practitioners or as employees of an agency. They select their service area and practice hours individually.



Service coordinators must also meet the Early Intervention Credential requirements, which are competency based and include the core knowledge and skills that are required of all early intervention personnel who provide services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The five core areas of competency are:

- Early Intervention Foundations;
- Child Development and Learning;
- Family and Community Relationships and Supports;
- Evaluation and Assessment; and
- Service Delivery and Implementation.

First Steps offers a series of training modules to providers and service coordinators on an ongoing basis to ensure that all providers can meet these competencies. These modules are scheduled at a variety of locations and times throughout the state to ensure ready accessibility and availability. There may be a nominal registration fee for certain modules.